

King for reference to the constitutional institutions to take necessary action, each according to its competence.

My brothers, sisters, the people of Bahrain, today is a historic opportunity for all of us to overcome this critical stage of the nation's history through the national dialogue, which we start without preconditions.

Our limit is consensus among all segments of the society. Our goal is bringing together different points of view to develop common visions that will contribute to further reform and development in all fields. In the name of Allah we begin, and Allah is the source of success, peace and Allah's mercy and blessings be upon you.

"We welcome the decision to transfer the cases of the deplorable incidents to regular courts," Her Excellency, Minister Fatima Al Beloushi said in an interview with Gulf Daily News. "Such a step is a strong indication of Bahrain's keenness on applying the highest rights and legal standards."

While both the lower national safety court and the national safety court of appeals were established to deal with extraordinary cases following the unrest that began in February 2011, Her Excellency, Minister Al Beloushi noted that a return normalcy necessitated a transition back to regular courts.

"Now that the situation is back to normal, the transfer of the remaining cases to the regular courts is the natural thing to do," she said.

This decision comes one week before the beginning of the comprehensive National Dialogue on July 1.

####

Source: Kingdom of Bahrain
Media Contact: Matt Lauer, (703) 463-1841

This release has been issued by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain. For more information please contact the US Department of Justice.

2011 JUL 28 AM 9:31

NSD/CES/REGISTRATION
UNIT

Delegates Discuss Parliamentary, Economic, Judicial Reforms in Second Session of National Dialogue

MANAMA (July 8, 2011)- Participants in the historic and comprehensive National Dialogue concluded a successful second day of deliberations yesterday, focusing on a number of political, economic, judicial and social topics.

In discussions on political reform, delegates debated the need for popular election of members of the Shura Council. A particularly noteworthy discussion ensued about a specific proposal to increase the power of the elected Council of Representatives.

Delegates also debated myriad economic reform proposals. These included the need to develop of a modern system of taxation in order to develop quality services, the introduction of consumer protection measures and corporate taxation. Participants also considered amending corporate responsibility statutes, pension reforms and housing assistance.

In one of the more expansive discussions of the day, participants considered various proposals aimed at reforming the judiciary. In particular, delegates presented proposals about empowering an independent judiciary with additional authority and power.

From an education and cultural perspective, participants raised the need to improve educational standards, to develop a national strategy for cultural initiatives and to create public sector labor unions.

Deliberations continue on Sunday, July 10, when delegates will consider proposals on governance, civil security, public money management and freedom of expression. The National Dialogue will continue to meet three times a week until at least the end of July.

###

This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain. More information is available at the United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Source: Kingdom of Bahrain
Press Contact: Matt Lauer
Phone: 202-683-3127
Email: mlauer@qorvis.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Delegates debate power of cabinet, freedom of expression and coexistence on third day of the National Dialogue

MANAMA – July 11, 2011 – Convening in the third official session of the comprehensive National Dialogue, delegates from all factions considered a variety of proposals in its four official working groups.

Participants discussing political reform largely debated the need to change the composition of the cabinet. Some delegates supported reform to have the cabinet better reflect the composition of the elected parliament while others expressed support for limiting the terms of ministerial appointment to a maximum of eight years. In addition, participants discussed the possibility of establishing a parliamentary right of veto over the government's four-year work plan.

The assembled delegates discussed the potential expansion of freedom of the press and assembly. Among the proposals debated were a review of legislation governing the right of assembly, the removal of censorship, Internet freedoms and preventing the suspension of media operations without a court order.

The economic working group considered mandating financial disclosures for public officials and the improving mechanisms to audit and monitor state expenditures. Furthermore, the assembly considered the creation of a body to ensure greater accountability for charitable and philanthropic groups.

Delegates also debated the appropriate mechanisms to promote peaceful coexistence in Bahraini society. There were specific calls to introduce legislation to combat discrimination based on ethnicity or religious beliefs. In addition, the group discussed the need to introduce legislation to combat the incitement of religious hatred.

The Dialogue reconvenes on Tuesday, July 12 and will discuss electoral reform and human rights.

###

Source: Kingdom of Bahrain
Contact: Rose Sager
(516) 410-4005

This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bahrain's hospitality industry on the rise

MANAMA — July 11, 2011 — Bahrain's hospitality industry has rebounded substantially since the lifting of the State of National Safety, Arabian Business reports. Once as low as 5 percent, occupancy rates in Bahraini hotels have steadily risen as trade restrictions have been lifted, and since the return of businessmen and Saudi tourists.

Several malls across Bahrain also reported an increase in profit since the State was lifted and industry analysts stated in the report.

"The malls which been empty for the last three or four months, are heaving and that's Saudi visitation, so it looks like the Saudis are back in large numbers," said Mike Williams, a senior director at the research firm CB Richard Ellis.

As confidence in the Bahraini economy grows, the report continues, several companies announced plans for additional new hospitality infrastructure. Kempinski announced the grand opening of two new hotels at the Bahrain City Centre Mall in September and Marriott announced plans for a new Residence Inn set to open later this year.

###

This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain. More information is available at the United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Source: Kingdom of Bahrain
Press Contact: Matt Lauer
Phone: 202-683-3127
Email: mlauer@qorvis.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Delegates reach crucial consensus, continue discussions in fourth sessions of the comprehensive National Dialogue

MANAMA – July 13, 2011 – In the fourth session of Bahrain's historic National Dialogue, participants reached crucial consensus on a number of youth-centric issues and broached additional political, economic, human rights and social questions that had not yet been raised.

After several sessions in which participants presented specific reform plans, yesterday's sessions raised additional topics for a second time and participants began to reach consensus on a variety of issues.

The Dialogue reached consensus on its first topic, agreeing to specific plans to facilitate the integration of young Bahraini citizens in the Kingdom's economic, social and political life. Among the 30 points on which the assembled delegates reach consensus were calls to increase funding for youth projects, to establish youth centers across the country, to create training and development programs and to increase the participation of young people in the decision-making process.

Participants expressed strongly diverging views on the existing electoral system, highlighting the importance of an open debate on this subject under the aegis of the National Dialogue. Some participants suggested that, in their current form, the composition of electoral districts did not reflect the Kingdom's demographics, while others believed it was a fair and representative system. Delegates also debated a suggestion for a quota system that would provide women with increased representation in parliament and the Shura – a move that would bolster women's rights and participation in the political process.

Human rights remained an important topic of conversation during the fourth day of deliberations. Several participants highlighted the importance of human rights as guaranteed by the Constitution and National Charter. A group of delegates supported the creation of a parliamentary committee for human rights in the Shura Council, which would support the implementation of key human rights precepts. Others called for Bahrain's assension to international treaties without reservations while respecting the values of Bahraini society.

On economic issues participants considered proposals on the proper mechanisms to reduce Bahrain's budget deficit. Some also called for restructuring salaries and wages to minimize social differences and assessing the needs of the poor before engaging in a debate on the welfare support system.

Deliberations continue on Thursday, July 14 when delegates will hold follow up sessions on political societies, civil society institutions, enhancing economic competitiveness and women's rights.

Economic Theme

Delegates discussed ways and means of reducing the budget deficit. Participants underlined the importance of assessing the needs of the poor before engaging in a debate on the welfare support system. Some called for a restructuring of salaries and wages to minimise social differences. Finally, suggestions were made to establish direct funding for social projects.

####

Source: Kingdom of Bahrain
Contact: Rose Sager
(516) 410-4005

This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Economic outlooks continues to improve following announcement of increased government spending, positive regulatory environment

MANAMA – (July 14, 2011) – Following the announcement of a rigorous two-year government spending program, key sectors of the Bahraini economy continue to grow and improve, the Times of Oman Reports.

Specifically citing the stabilization in the financial industry, rental housing market and hotel industry, analysts at the ratings agency Standard & Poors expressed its confidence in the long term growth path of the Bahraini economy.

“We think Bahrain was seen for a very long time as the centre for wholesale banking in the Gulf, with a good infrastructure and good regulation track record” said a spokesperson for Standard & Poors.

According to property consultancy CBRE, Bahrain’s superior financial regulatory climate insulated Bahrain from low priced competitor challenges from Dubai and Qatar. In the past months, the Central Bank of Bahrain issued eight new licenses for financial institutions alone, Gulf Daily News reports.

This assessment coincides with recent positive economic forecasts following the lifting of the State of National Safety on June 1 by His Majesty, King Hamad.

###

Source: Kingdom of Bahrain
Contact: Rose Sager
(516) 410-4005

This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Additional Consensus Reached on Fifth Day of Historic and Comprehensive National Dialogue

MANAMA – July 15, 2011 – In their fifth day of deliberations, the 266 delegates participating in the comprehensive National Dialogue arrived consensus on a wide range of social, political, economic and human rights issues.

The Dialogue unanimously decided to bolster women's rights and opportunities for economic empowerment. In particular, the delegates agreed to ensure the comprehensive implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women while simultaneously respecting the country's religious traditions. Participants further agreed to ensure the comprehensive implementation of children's rights legislated and approved the proposal to grant citizenship to all children born to Bahraini women married to foreign nationals.

During discussions about the appropriate relationship between non-governmental organizations and the state, participants agreed to develop and adopt a "National Strategy for NGOs." Under such an agreement, organizations would be permitted to establish headquarters with the assistance of the Ministry of Human Rights and Social Development. The delegates also agreed to establish specific rules governing the distribution of public funds. In particular, any suspension of government funding could only be authorized by a court order.

In the political working group, the assembled delegates were able to achieve consensus on the implementation of comprehensive legislation ensuring non-sectarianism in all civil and political organizations. Participants also agreed to establish broader rules governing financial disclosure of political organizations and additional rules on how such groups structure, monitor and organize their funding.

Deliberations in the economic working group focused on bolstering Bahrain's financial competitiveness. Specifically, delegates called for the comprehensive implementation of the "Gulf Agreement," which would ensure fair and equal treatment for Bahrain.

The National Dialogue continues this Sunday, July 17 when the assembled delegates will work to achieve consensus on the roles of the Shura Council and Elected parliament, issues of civil security and peace, judicial authority and the level of government services.

####

Source: Kingdom of Bahrain
Contact: Rose Sager
(516) 410-4005

This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance Partners with SunGard Higher Education Partners to Support Private Sector Growth

MANAMA—July 15, 2011—In response to Bahrain's rapidly growing financial services sector, the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) announced a partnership with SunGard Higher Education to provide the sector's training and professional development programs.

"Bahrain has one of the most advanced financial services industries in the region and requires a steady supply of skilled talent," said SunGard Higher Education Vice President of EMEA and India Mathew Boice.

BIBF will implement SunGard Higher Education's PowerCAMPUS Digital Campus and analytics software as a means of managing the institute's main operations such as recruitment, admissions, registration, student records and bill processing, institutional performance data and operational reporting. The Digital Campus will also help improve communication between faculty, staff, students and alumni and ease staff demands.

"This is a significant step in our mission to build world-class training and professional development programs for Bahrainis in the fast growing financial services sector," said BIBF Director Gary Muriwai.

Director Muriwai pointed to SunGard's global reputation as the basis of the selection. "We have selected SunGard Higher Education because of their expertise and track record in supporting educational institutions to deliver on their strategic missions and objectives," he added.

On behalf of SunGard, Boice expressed the company's appreciation and eagerness to support Bahrain's private sector objectives.

"We are committed to supporting the development of the private sector workforce and we are especially proud to support a project of this nature in the country at this time," he said.

####

Source: Gulf Daily News
Contact: Rose Sager
(516) 410-4005

This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Dialogue Spokesman Issues Statement of Regret in Response to Al Wefaq's Intention to Withdraw from the National Dialogue.

MANAMA -- July 18, 2011 -- In a statement issued today, Official Spokesman Isa Abdul Rahman expressed his regret that prominent opposition political society Al Wefaq announced its intention to withdraw from the National Dialogue.

"We regret the decision, by any participant, to withdraw from Bahrain's Dialogue. The process provides an important platform for participants to promote the views and interests of the people they represent," he said. "We strongly encourage all participants remain fully engaged in the Dialogue process. We call on delegates to set aside their differences, and make every effort to move forward."

He continued, saying, "We consider Al Wefaq's contribution to the dialogue as central to its success thus far. It is sometimes harder to stay and help shape the solution than to walk away. Now is the moment to heal divides and unite behind a shared vision of Bahrain's future."

The Spokesman underlined that: "Should any participant choose to exclude themselves from the process, the door will remain open for them to return to the talks. Regardless of any participant's decision to leave, the Dialogue will continue. This is a time to be engaged, open, creative and to demonstrate willingness to take bold decisions."

Although it has not yet received formal notification of Al Wefaq's decision to withdraw, Mr. Abdul Rahman responded to the party's criticism of the National Dialogue's procedures.

"The talks adhere to internationally recognized standards for achieving consensus. All participants signed up to these procedures at the outset of the Dialogue," Abdul Rahman said. "In order to ensure a full airing of the issues, each of the parties was given ample opportunity to raise any matter it considers relevant."

Specifically responding to criticism of the Dialogue's composition, Mr. Abdul Rahman said: "The inclusive approach adopted seeks to enrich the dialogue and reflect the aspirations of our society. Al Wefaq represents a sizable portion of our population but we have a duty of responsibility to ensure that all voices are heard and that the loudest speaker does not drown out the quieter voices."

###

Source: Kingdom of Bahrain
Contact: Rose Sager
(516) 410-4005

This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

NSD/CES/REGISTRATION
UNIT
2011 JUL 28 AM 9:31

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Ambassador Houda Nonoo Addresses Members of the Washington
Intergovernmental Professional Group at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain
in Washington, DC.**

WASHINGTON—July 19, 2011—Bahrain's Ambassador to the United States, Houda Nonoo, addressed over 60 members of the Washington Intergovernmental Professional Group today in a speech at the Kingdom's embassy in Washington, DC.

In her remarks, Ambassador Nonoo reiterated Bahrain's commitment to democratic reforms, but noted that like in the United States, the fulfillment of this vision will be a gradual process over a number of years.

"Like all young, vibrant democracies, Bahrain is constantly grappling with the best ways to fulfill the legitimate aspirations of its people. We understand that this is a long, gradual process and that democratic change cannot happen overnight," she said in her speech.

She continued: "We take heart in drawing on the example of our stalwart allies in the United States – surely American democracy has evolved for the better in its 235 year history. We have made real, meaningful progress over the past ten years and are committed to making the changes necessary to grow in the years and decades to come."

Ambassador Nonoo also praised the mechanisms established by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to begin the process of healing Bahraini society following recent unrest.

"The Royal Commission of Inquiry is the first institution of its kind in the Arab World," she said. "His Majesty the King established the Commission so that its findings would reveal the truth and assist all Bahrainis in putting the events of the past behind us as we move towards a brighter future of unity and cohesion."

For the latest news and information about the Kingdom of Bahrain, please follow the Embassy on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

###

Source: The Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain
Contact: Will Dempster
(202) 407-3511

This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Powers of elected parliament to increase following groundbreaking consensus at Bahrain's National Dialogue

MANAMA – July 20, 2011 – Bahrain's historic and comprehensive National Dialogue reached groundbreaking consensus to increase the powers of the elected parliament, Dialogue spokesman Isa Abdul Rahman announced today.

Delegates specifically agreed to expand parliament's role in overseeing the selection of Bahrain's government. Parliament will now be empowered with the ability to approve or reject the appointed prime minister's cabinet selections, he said.

"Under the new proposals, the Prime Minister will now assume responsibility for selecting the members of his government," Mr. Abdul Rahman said. "The government will require the endorsement of our parliament before taking up office. If members of Parliament disapprove, they can vote to reject the entire government. This decision guarantees that our government's composition and work plan will reflect the will of the people."

The announced consensus is the latest in a series of important reforms announced by the National Dialogue in its efforts to enact sweeping democratic reforms in Bahrain.

"This decision represents a radical shift in the balance of power - between our democratically elected parliament and our executive branch – further demonstrating Bahrain's commitment to concrete reforms," Mr. Abdul Rahman said.

###

Source: Kingdom of Bahrain
Contact: Rose Sager
(516) 410-4005

This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Delegates Agree to Establish Fairer Electoral Constituencies, Adherence to International Human Rights Conventions in National Dialogue

MANAMA (July 21, 2011) – Delegates agreed to work towards establishing fairer electoral constituencies, while arriving at consensus on Bahrain's commitment to international human rights commitments during the ninth session of the historic and comprehensive National Dialogue yesterday.

Engaging in the open and honest debate that has characterized the inclusive and democratic nature of the Dialogue, participants from a variety of political societies and other groups discussed a variety of proposals to reform the electoral system in Bahrain. While several delegates expressed their concern that the current electoral constituency boundaries did not adequately represent demography of Bahrain, others argued that the boundaries were drawn in accordance with international standards. Although the delegates arrived at no consensus on a specific reform proposal, they did agree that boundaries should be fairer and that all comments and proposals would be included in the Dialogue's final report.

In addressing a widespread issue in Bahrain, the Dialogue agreed to a proposal that granted citizenship to children of Bahraini women married to foreign nationals according to a clear set of rules.

In the human rights working group, participants agreed to establish a national program to promote human rights awareness among official and civil society organizations – and, in particular, among law enforcement personnel. Delegates also agreed that oversight of human rights organizations be transferred from the Ministry of Social Development and Human Rights to Parliament. In keeping with several days of deliberations, the assembled participants supported a proposal that Bahrain should sign and join international human rights treaties and translating these protocols to national legislation.

The National Dialogue will continue its deliberations on Sunday, July 24.

###

This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain. More information is available at the United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Source: Kingdom of Bahrain
Contact: Rose Sager
(516) 410-4005

State Department: U.S. Navy Committed to Bahrain

Washington – July 22, 2011 - The U.S. Department of State reiterated the United States' ironclad commitment to Bahrain in denying allegations it intended to move the Navy's Fifth Fleet

"Diplomatically, we regard Bahrain as an important partner, while the U.S. Navy has a long-standing relationship of more than 60 years with Bahrain, which is a vital member of our Combined Maritime Forces, supporting regional maritime security and stability," a State Department official told the Huffington Post.

The Navy's Fifth Fleet is the central maritime presence in the Middle East and protects vital waterways throughout the Gulf region.

The official also reiterated the United States' strong support for the ongoing National Dialogue under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

"The United States continues to support all of the ongoing efforts that are necessary to promote reconciliation among Bahrainis and to advance necessary reforms," the official said.

////

This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain. More information is available at the United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Source: Kingdom of Bahrain
Contact: Rose Sager
(516) 410-4005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BAHRAIN "MOST OPEN ECONOMY" IN GCC, KPMG REPORT SAYS

MANAMA-----**July 23, 2011**-----Bahrain's comparative lack of hydrocarbons has lead to its status as one of the Gulf State's most "financially forward-thinking" countries, according to a new KPMG report.

In KPMG's "Succeeding in a Changing World" survey of 1,500 executives across 22 European, Middle Eastern and African countries, Bahrain earned the reputation of "regional trailblazer" with the "GCC's most open economy."

"Having long since realized that it cannot rely on oil and gas exports to ensure its continuing prosperity, the kingdom has strived over the past several decades to diversify its economy away from the extraction of natural resources and towards a more sustainable model of development based on manufacturing and the provision of services, especially finance," the report said.

In fact, the building blocks of Bahrain's economy remain intact despite recent unrest, and investors are optimistic about the country's future, according to the report.

"Going forward, government and regional investments are expected to have an immediate impact on Bahrain's economic recovery," it said.

The report added that Bahrain's expected revision of the national economic strategy will be a vital measure to ensure long-term prosperity. To this end, organizations are reviewing their internal structure to enhance performance efficiency and are concentrating on business performance management.

Compared to other countries, Bahraini executives place a higher weight on mitigating risk throughout organizations at 42 percent versus the average 30 percent. KPMG Fakhro and Bahrain's Head of Advisory Narayanan Ramachandran says this demonstrates Bahrain's "increasing emphasis on corporate governance and financial risk management."

###

Source: Kingdom of Bahrain
Contact: Rose Sager
(516) 410-4005

This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Delegates agree to further expand oversight and legislative powers of Parliament in Sunday's session of the National Dialogue

MANAMA (July 24, 2011) – In its penultimate sessions yesterday, Bahrain's historic and comprehensive National Dialogue agreed to further enhance the powers of the Kingdom's elected parliament. The consensus reached at yesterday's session brought to a close discussions under the Dialogue's four announced themes.

Delegates agreed to establish greater legislative and monitoring powers for the elected parliament. In particular, the presence of minister will be required when members of Parliament debate issues related to their respective ministries. Furthermore, members of Parliament will be entitled to question ministers during full parliamentary sessions, rather than restricting such questioning to committee. Overall, these decisions reinforce the parliament's powers of scrutiny over the government's activities and strengthen the accountability of ministers to the elected representatives of the people.

Although they discussed additional issues, participants did not achieve consensus on a number of other topics, including whether the Shura Council should be granted the same powers as Parliament or whether lawmaking and oversight should be restricted to the elected lower house.

The Dialogue also discussed placing the National Audit Court under the auspices of Parliament while granting it the right to amend the government's general budget without its approval. However, concerns about the independence of the National Audit Court impeded consensus on this issue.

Reconvening in a special session today, the National Dialogue will discuss 30 proposals about expanding expatriate opportunities and rights in Bahrain.

####

This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain. More information is available at the United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Source: Kingdom of Bahrain
Contact: Rose Sager
(516) 410-4005

BAHRAIN CREATES PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUBSIDY TO HELP DRIVE PRIVATE SECTOR GROWTH

MANAMA—July 26, 2011— Bahrain plans to subsidize half the costs of professional development for Bahrainis, ultimately leading to an improved skill set among nationals and encouraging the hiring of Bahrainis within the country.

Tamkeen, a semi-autonomous authority concerned with the prosperity of Bahrainis, will pay 50 percent of costs for those seeking professional qualifications in any subject. The plan is open to both the employed and unemployed in public and private sectors.

"Tamkeen works under the philosophy that the future for Bahrainis is not created for them, but by them, and we are giving individuals and organizations the tools to make their own success," Enterprise and Human Capital Development Vice President Dr. Ahmed Al Shaikh said.

How it works: Companies select qualified Bahraini employees and train them either in-house or at an institution, according to Dr. Al Shaikh. Tamkeen then subsidizes the company for the training and funds an increase in the employee's monthly salary for 18 months upon training completion.

Beyond the training subsidy, other programs have been developed to prepare Bahrainis for the workforce and help drive private sector growth. Existing plans include a work ethics program for schools prior to graduation, a business development program to improve productivity, an accounting system program for SME's, a quality management system program and a technology assistance program. Foreign-owned companies are also eligible for all Tamkeen programs.

"Foreign organizations that employ Bahrainis are also eligible for our support schemes in both upskilling their labor force through our human capital development arm and developing their business through our private sector support programs," Dr. Al Shaikh said.

Tamkeen works with the Labor Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) and other organizations to help reinforce the government's mandate to implement labor market reform. Tamkeen develops strategic and tactical plans for fees collected by LMRA for investing in Bahraini employability, job creation, and social support

###

This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain. More information is available at the United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Source: Kingdom of Bahrain

Contact: Rose Sager
(516) 410-4005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY ISSUES DISCUSSED IN SPECIAL SESSION OF
THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE**

MANAMA—July 27, 2011—In a special working session of Bahrain's historic and comprehensive National Dialogue, members of Bahrain's expatriate community, religious groups and cultural organizations met to address the concerns of foreign workers in the Kingdom. Discussions focused on economic development, workers' rights and citizenship status.

Among items discussed were recommendations for improving Bahrain's economic competitiveness, specifically foreign direct investment in the tourism, financial and services sectors. Factors to improve investment included the simplification of business visa requirements, more transparency in regulations and the development of Bahrain's transport and telecoms infrastructure.

Also discussed was the issue of foreign workers' rights. Attendees proposed establishing a minimum wage, along with direct bank deposit payments and also supported the allowance to keep possession of passports at all times, in accordance with international standards.

Participants also requested that the current citizenship process be reviewed and reconsidered, especially as pertains to children of longtime residents. Ideas that children be given residency automatically after the age of 18 and that families, rather than individuals, be naturalized also surfaced during the discussion.

The suggestions will be submitted to His Majesty the King for consideration.

###

Source: Kingdom of Bahrain
Contact: Rose Sager
(516) 410-4005

This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain.